INFORMATION LETTER

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What's Doing in Congress

With neutrality legislation out of the way and the A.A.A. substitute certain of passage within two or three days, administration leaders are predicting adjournment by May 1st. The tax bill when introduced may make for delay even if, as announced, it is to be restricted to raising money to finance the new farm bill, but the appropriation bills are coming along on schedule and should in the ordinary course of events be disposed of before May 1st. If all other factors favor early adjournment it is not likely that the more controversial minor measures, such as the Walsh, O'Mahoney, or Patman bills, will be allowed to delay matters.

Price-Discrimination Bills

Pressure from both sides is increasing in the struggle over the Robinson-Patman Bill, although there were no further moves in Congress during the week. It is announced that there is to be a conference in Washington on March 4th of brokers, wholesalers, and independent retailers interested in having the bill passed at this session.

The investigation by the special Patman committee studying big-scale wholesale and retail buying and selling organizations was reopened on February 15th to hear testimony by Dr. Julius Klein, and then closed again. The testimony taken by this committee and by the subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee headed by Mr. Utterback, will be used in perfecting the Patman Bill, which, contrary to expectations at one time, may be reported out by the committee in preference to the Utterback Bill. It is understood the Robinson Bill amendments will be incorporated in the Patman Bill, including the amendment authorizing the Federal Trade Commission to fix quantity limits upon which differentials may be based.

A.A.A. Substitute

The Bankhead Soil Conservation Bill (S. 3780) was passed by the Senate on February 15th and is now before the House, where it or the companion Jones Bill (H. R. 10835) is expected to pass by the end of the week. In the Senate the bill was amended to limit the cost to $500,000,000 a year, and to extend the scope of soil-erosion provisions to the protection of rivers and harbors, the maintenance of navigability of waters, and in aid of flood control.

Status of Other Bills

WALSH BILL.—Although it is still the intention to set an early date for hearings on the Walsh Bill before the Healey subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, no definite plans have yet been announced.

O'MAHONEY LICENSING BILL.—It is understood that the Wheeler subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce is making preparations for early hearings on the O'Mahoney Bill, but no date has actually been set.

COPELAND BILL.—There is nothing new to report on the bill to amend the Food and Drugs Act, as the measure has not been considered to date by the subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee that has it in charge.

BLACK AND CONNERY 30-HOUR BILLS.—The 30-hour bills are on the calendars of both Houses without any apparent intention of bringing them to a vote in the near future.

Amendment of Shrimp Inspection Regulations

Under the authority conferred by the amendment of August 27, 1935, to the Federal Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906 (Section 10A as amended), the regulations approved August 27, 1935, are hereby amended effective on this date (February 8, 1936), by striking out regulation 13(d) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"13(d) When any packer desires extension of the inspection period in any establishment beyond six months, but in no case beyond June 30th of any year, he shall apply therefor on a form provided by the Food and Drug Administration. Such form shall be accompanied by a payment to the Department of Agriculture in an amount at the rate of $200.00 for each additional month for each inspector initially assigned to the establishment for such extension. Provided, however, that when such extensions are for periods of three or more months, at least one-half of the amount due for the period shall accompany the form. Payment of the second half of such fee shall be made immediately after packing 2,000 cases, but in no event later than one month after the date specified in the application for the beginning of the extension of inspection."

Asparagus Acreage in California

The bearing acreage of asparagus in California which will be available for harvest this spring is reported by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics as 67,200 acres, as compared with 70,670 acres harvested in 1935, 73,280 acres in 1934, 76,550 acres in 1933, 70,500 acres in 1932 and 63,670 acres in 1931. Of the total acreage harvested in 1935, 20,250 acres were for market and 50,420 acres for manufacture. The Bureau states:

There has been a steady drop in the California acreage occurring mainly in the Delta area since 1933. However, plantings last spring were quite heavy and by 1937 a substantial increase in the bearing acreage will be noted in all sections of the State. Plantings during 1936 are expected to be large. Some "grass" is available in the Delta at the present time and warm rains of the past two weeks have made it come along fairly rapidly. As soon as the fields dry, and provided frost does not interfere, there should be sufficient "grass" available for straight cars. Practically all of the 61,260 acres listed under Delta will be available for early harvest as market asparagus. As soon as the cannery season opens most of this production will be canned.

Trade Agreement with Honduras Ratified

The reciprocal trade agreement with Honduras, signed on December 18th, was ratified on February 2nd, and will become effective on March 3rd. An analysis of this trade agreement was carried in the INFORMATION LETTER of December 21, 1935.

New Consumer Group

A new consumer's organization, to supply further information on consumer goods and services, has been formed, according to Printer's Ink. It will be known as the Consumers Union of the United States with headquarters at 26 East 17th Street, New York.

Professor Colston Warne, of Amherst College, is president. Members of the board of directors are: Arthur Kallett, Heywood Broun, and Dewey Palmer. Mr. Kallett was formerly associated with Stuart Chase in his books. He was one of the executives of Consumers' Research, Inc., until it suffered capitalistic pains in the form of a strike. Mr. Broun, columnist, is entering new fields in his announced association with the new group. Mr. Palmer was the former chief technician for Consumers' Research—until the strike took place.

Other officers and directors are: Robert A. Brady, professor of economics at the University of California; A. J. Isserman, Dr. Charles A. Marlies of City College, N. Y.; Osmond Frankel; Rose Schneiderman, president of the Women's Trade Union League; James Gilman, president of the Book and Magazine Guild; Frank Palmer, and Adelaide Schulkind of the League of Mutual Aid.

Pack of Tomato Juice, Pulp, and Puree in 1935

The tomato juice pack in 1935 was 8,170,640 cases, as compared with 5,703,920 cases in 1934 and 4,170,794 cases in 1933, according to preliminary figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. The pack of tomato pulp and puree in 1935 was 2,751,721 cases as compared with 2,449,859 cases in 1934.

The can sizes for tomato juice listed in the following table are those which have been most generally used. A number of companies, however, use can sizes that cannot be designated by any name other than the can maker's description. These cans are, for the most part, included in the "miscellaneous column."

The only year for which statistics on tomato pulp and puree are genuinely comparable with the 1935 figures is 1934. The Census reports for 1933 and 1931 show totals of 1,866,928 cases and 1,479,235 cases respectively. The Census figure for 1933 includes sauce and paste. The 1931 figure presumably is comparable to the Association's total, which includes pulp and puree only. A careful check of the production of tomatoes for manufacture for these two years and the total amount of all products packed from tomatoes indicates that the Census totals for 1931 and 1933 are probably too small.

Tomato Juice

State	No. 2 [a] Cases	No. 1E [b] Cases	303 and 304 Cases	No. 10 Cases	Misc. [c] Cases	Glass Cases	Total Cases
New York	71,770	84,372	96,021	275,735	352,206	165,128	1,045,232
Maryland	6,800	116,000	71,333	54,000	43,350	59,600	351,083
Delaware	3,510	351,411	....	61,182	8,744	....	424,847
Ohio	29,453	12,997	....	47,858	30,182	....	120,490
Indiana	115,896	268,388	48,288	220,839	1,142,694	184,876	1,980,981
Utah	6,619	25,392	....	5,007	6,137	....	43,155
Colorado	13,013	72,477	....	12,846	14,987	....	113,323
California	367,848	505,320	....	166,518	113,378	....	1,153,064
Other States	184,282	893,637	....	330,027	972,251	558,268	2,938,465
Total	799,191	2,329,994	215,642	1,174,012	2,683,929	967,872	8,170,640

[a] Includes primarily 307 x 409 and some 307 x 408.
[b] Includes 211 x 400 and some 301 x 411.
[c] Includes various odd sizes of cans.

Tomato Pulp and Puree

State	No. 2 Cases	No. 1E Cases	No. 10 Cases	5 gal. Cases	Misc. Cases	Total Cases
New York	....	....	60,775	....	....	60,775
Maryland	....	9,113	4,115	19,739	32,614	65,581
Delaware	....	....	32,216	12,000	....	44,216
New Jersey and Pennsylvania	....	11,625	210,892	110,000	41,738	374,255
Ohio	3,814	17,672	122,479	21,883	3,077	168,925
Indiana	21,206	107,547	606,791	101,629	200,932	1,038,105
Michigan	2,011	4,330	40,951	30,000	....	77,292
Utah	....	759	45,287	62,934	13,921	122,901
California	105	2,000	711,669	....	15,168	728,942
Other States	5,929	6,043	53,657	95	5,005	70,729
Total	33,065	139,089	1,888,832	358,280	312,455	2,751,721

Relationship of Legume Mosaics to Beans

The relationship of certain legume mosaics to beans is the subject of a paper that appeared in the Journal of Agricultural Research for October 15, 1935, and the following paragraphs from the paper indicate the problem investigated and the nature of the results reported in the study of the occurrence of legume mosaics on beans:

"Since the virus of the common mosaic disease of bean is seed-borne, the disease is widely distributed. Previous investigators have shown that the amount of seed transmission of the virus varies; primary infected plants seldom produce more than 50 per cent of infected seeds, and secondary infected plants produce an even smaller percentage. Notwithstanding the low percentage of seed-borne mosaic in most

lots, the disease often becomes so widespread in the field, especially among the susceptible varieties, that all the plants may be infected by the end of the growing season.

"Common bean mosaic is not equally severe in all sections of the country, which indicates, among other things, that climatic conditions may not be equally favorable for the manifestation of symptoms and that the agencies transferring the virus may be more numerous in some bean-growing sections than in others. There also may be hosts harboring other viruses that may be infectious to beans.

"It has frequently been demonstrated and is generally understood that under field conditions the disease is spread by means of aphids from infected to healthy plants, but it has been doubted whether this is the sole source of virus transfer. Field observations have indicated that the source of some of the infection came from mosaic-infected legumes, both cultivated and wild. In some of the irrigated sections of the United States it was repeatedly observed that bean mosaic appeared more severe in the early part of the season along the borders of the field adjacent to fence rows, irrigation ditches, or roadways, which were often overrun with weeds, including several legumes. In a number of instances, 15 to 20 per cent of infection was found in the outermost rows whereas only a trace was observed in the center of the field. This difference in severity of infection may have been due either to large aphid populations coming from the weeds transmitting certain of the related legume viruses to bean, or to the spreading of the common bean mosaic from one bean plant to another.

"During the course of cross-inoculation studies with virus diseases of certain leguminous hosts it was noted that the virus extracts of some of these diseased hosts when inoculated to the bean produced symptoms unlike those of the common bean mosaic. It was shown that the viruses causing the mosaic diseases of pea, white clover, alsike clover, white sweetclover, yellow sweetclover, alfalfa, and sweet pea are all transmissible to bean, whereas the virus producing the mosaic of red clover is not. Although a careful examination of the symptoms produced by the viruses of these legumes on bean reveals specific differences, the viruses from white clover, white sweetclover, yellow sweetclover, and alsike clover when inoculated to beans may produce under certain conditions symptoms that resemble the typical mottled and chlorotic symptoms of the common bean mosaic.

"It is entirely probable that in the several legumes there may be present other mosaic viruses that may react differently from those reported here, notwithstanding symptomatological similarity. Furthermore, viruses from other mosaic-diseased legumes not included here may also produce on beans symptoms different from any so far reported.

"In some cases certain viruses were inoculated only to the Stringless Green Refugee variety to determine their infectiousness. The viruses of pea, white clover, white sweetclover, alfalfa, and red clover mosaics were studied in some detail; those of alsike clover, yellow sweetclover, and sweet pea mosaics were not.

"This paper describes the symptoms of these legume mosaic diseases on their normal hosts, together with the symptoms produced by these viruses when inoculated to bean, and compares differences in varietal reaction of the several legume mosaic diseases on bean varieties and other leguminous hosts with those of the common bean mosaic. Data on the comparison of the properties of these viruses are also given. An unknown virus obtained from a hybrid bean is compared with the common bean mosaic as to symptomatology and varietal susceptibility and resistance on a number of different bean varieties."

Rural Retail Sales in January

Daily average sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas for January were about 10 per cent higher in dollar volume than for January, 1935, and were 21 per cent above those for the same month of 1934, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. As compared with December, 1935, January sales decreased about 48½ per cent, or more than the usual decline at this season of the year.

Grocery Chain Store Sales in January

Daily average sales of grocery chain stores for January showed an increase of 3½ per cent in dollar volume as compared with January, 1935, and were 10½ per cent above the same month of 1934, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Sales for January decreased about 5½ per cent from December, 1935, or about the average decrease from December to January for the past six years.

California Canning Asparagus Agreement Terminated

The marketing agreement and amended license accompanying the agreement for canning asparagus grown in California has been officially terminated by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The notice of termination was signed February 18th by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture to become effective Thursday, February 20, 1936. Both the agreement and the amended license have been in effect since April 3, 1935.

Changes in Regulations for Alaska Fisheries

Revised regulations for the protection of the Alaska fisheries were approved by Ernest G. Draper, Acting Secretary of Commerce, on February 8th. Because of the general stable condition of these fisheries, the primary product of which was about 250,000,000 cans of salmon in 1935, no changes of major importance have been made in the regulations from last season, according to the Bureau of Fisheries. The Bureau's announcement states:

"Most of the changes are in the nature of adjustments resulting from field investigations in Alaska and a series of public hearings held by Commissioner Bell in Seattle last November, at which cannerymen, fishermen, representatives of trade organizations, and others were in attendance. There have been some relaxations in certain areas and additional restrictions in other places, depending upon local needs and conditions.

"There have been a few changes in trap locations, in consequence of which six fewer sites will be open as compared with last year. The salmon fishing seasons in the Kuskokwim district, Prince William Sound area, and three dis-

tricts in southeastern Alaska have been lengthened, this being possible because of satisfactory escapements to the spawning grounds in recent years. Other changes which will benefit more especially the small operators are the opening of additional areas to gill nets in Cook Inlet and along the west coast of Prince of Wales Island, and a lessening in the prohibited distance interval between gill nets in Cook Inlet.

"In the Yukon region there has been a reduction in the limit on the take of king salmon for commercial purposes from 100,000 to 50,000, thus assuring an adequate supply of salmon for food requirements of residents up the river. At the same time, persons residing near the mouth of the Yukon will have an opportunity to engage in limited commercial fishing and thus add to their meagre sources of livelihood.

"In the Alaska Peninsula area there has been an increase in the distance interval between purse seines and traps, and additional regions have been opened to purse seining.

"Greater protection is provided for the herring of southeastern Alaska by prohibiting all fishing for this species in the vicinity of Cape Ommaney prior to July 16. At the same time, certain other places closed to herring fishing for the past five years have been reopened. The herring fishing season in Prince William Sound has been extended.

"The crab fishery is to receive additional protection by increasing the size limit from 6½ inches to 7 inches, and adjusting the closed season to include the period when the crabs are soft and economically least valuable."

Hearing on Florida Citrus Agreement

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration has announced that a public hearing will be held at Lakeland, Florida, February 27th, on a proposed marketing agreement regulating the handling of citrus fruits grown in Florida. The proposed agreement would provide for the regulation of the handling of these fruits through limitation of shipments by means of proration, and the limitation of shipments by grade and/or size.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

Commodity	Week ending Feb. 15, 1935	Week ending Feb. 15, 1936	Week ending Feb. 8, 1936	Total for season through Feb 15, 1935	Total for season through Feb 15, 1936
Vegetables:					
Beans, snap and lima	496	223	219	2,401	2,824
Tomatoes	239	235	227	2,281	4,379
Green peas	205	186	160	805	913
Spinach	233	381	369	2,650	3,706
All other vegetables:					
Domestic, competing directly	4,244	3,924	4,206	103,719	89,355
Imports—					
Competing directly	60	59	26	294	499
Competing indirectly	49	47	60	875	1,379
Fruits:					
Citrus, domestic	3,445	2,981	2,908	55,255	48,147
Imports	1	6	5	240	403
Others, domestic	332	101	46	17,320	14,554

Estimated Population of the United States

The official population estimate for 1935, as announced by the Bureau of the Census, indicates that the population of continental United States on July 1, 1935, was 127,521,000.

As compared with the 1930 census total of 122,775,046, this estimate represents an increase of 4,746,000, or nearly 4 per cent. If the increase should be continued at this rate until the end of the decade, the nation's population in 1940 would be around 132,000,000. The average annual increase for the 5¼-year period was 904,000, which is only a little more than one-half the 1920-1930 average of 1,665,000.

American Canned Foods Gain in Malayan Market

The United States made considerable headway in sales of canned fruits on the Malayan market in 1935, according to the American trade commissioner at Singapore. Total imports of tinned fruits for the first nine months of the year were less than in the corresponding period of 1934, but American canners shipped 126 tons to Malaya as against 86 tons during the January-September period in 1934. For the last quarter of the year there was a marked falling off in the canned foods trade here, particularly in the districts outside Singapore.

In canned vegetables more competition has been experienced from Canada, particularly from the Aylmer brand, prices for which are approximately 25 per cent below those quoted by American manufacturers. Considerable competition in canned peas has also been experienced from Japan. An American manufacturer shipping from his Canadian plant has been doing a big trade in canned vegetables. China has been making considerable inroads on the ketchup market due to the fact that their products are of good quality and their prices are noticeably lower than those of their American and Canadian competitors.

In canned fruits the United Kingdom has been getting the largest portion of the trade in raspberries, strawberries, and gooseberries. The English seem to can a larger strawberry than do the American manufacturers and this seems to meet with the Malayan demand. Australian competition in canned fruits this year has not been serious, although their prices on peaches, pears and apricots are about 20 per cent under those of American manufacturers. Some canned fruits have recently been coming in from China, particularly pears, peaches and grapes. Their best known brand on this market is the "Maling." The Japanese have not been particularly active in this market in canned fruits, although they have sent in small quantities from time to time.

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